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For Immediate Release: Monday, August 05, 2013 **Contact:** Kimberly Larson 706.741.3439 Mobile

## GEORGIA DOT SUSPENDS ROADWORK FOR SALES TAX HOLIDAY

ATLANTA—Shoppers will get a break from road construction this weekend to go along with the state's suspension of the sales tax for school supplies, clothing and computer equipment.

The Georgia Department of Transportation will suspend construction-related lane closures within five miles of a shopping mall or major shopping district on all interstates and major state routes beginning at 8 a.m. Friday, August 9 through 10 p.m. Saturday, August 10.

"The sales tax holiday is an opportunity for Georgians to save a little money during these challenging economic times," said Georgia DOT Commissioner Keith Golden. "The Department is glad to offer some relief from lane closures as families prepare for school."

During the annual "back to school" sales tax holiday, Georgia shoppers will have the opportunity to purchase certain clothing items, computers and computer accessories tax-free. More information concerning the 2013 Sales Tax Holiday and tax exempt items can be found on the Georgia Department of Revenue's website under Sales Tax at: <a href="https://etax.dor.ga.gov/hottopics.aspx">https://etax.dor.ga.gov/hottopics.aspx</a>

The Department reminds travelers to exercise caution nonetheless as heavy holiday traffic is expected throughout the state; crews may be still be working in close proximity to highways; and safety concerns may require some long-term lane closures remain in place. Also, incident management or emergency, maintenance-related lane closures could become necessary at any time on any route.

Motorists can access real-time, statewide, route-specific information on accidents, road work, traffic and weather conditions through Georgia 511 - a free phone service. By dialing 511, callers also can transfer to operators to 24 hours a day to report incidents or request assistance. The system can be used to access transit providers, major airports, rideshare organizations, tourism information and 511 systems in surrounding states. Additionally, 511 is available online. Georgia DOT partners with sponsors for assistance in funding 511, thereby preserving tax dollars and helping sustain critical services. For more information about 511, visit 511ga.org. For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit www.dot.ga.gov or subscribe to

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